

### **State Board of Education Approves Grade Levels for MEAP Assessments of Science and Social Studies**

On November 9, 2004, the State Board of Education approved the administration of the MEAP Science tests in grades 5 and 8 and the MEAP Social Studies tests in grade 6 and 9, effective Fall, 2005.

Earlier this year, the State Board approved shifting the grades 3-8 MEAP Mathematics and English Language Arts assessments to the Fall, starting in 2005-2006; a final decision at what grades Science and Social Studies would be tested was deferred.

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) Advisory Committee voted overwhelmingly last spring to recommend to the State Board the assessment of Science in the Fall of grades 5 and 8, and the assessment of Social Studies in the Fall of grades 6 and 9. The OEAA has agreed that the 9<sup>th</sup> grade social studies assessment could be administered with either the middle school cycle or the high school cycle consistent with the other assessments being administered in a building.

### **State Board of Education Approves OEAA Professional Assessment & Accountability Practices for Educators**

On November 9, 2004, the State Board of Education approved the OEAA Professional Assessment and Accountability Practices for Educators and dissemination of the document for the assessments to be administered in the 2004-2005 school year.

When the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) was transferred back to the Michigan Department of Education from Treasury, the test administration guidelines that were used to guide ethical practice for the MEAP tests had not been approved by the State Board of Education. There was a desire to have guidelines so that everyone would be clear about appropriate and inappropriate practices before, during, and after the assessments are completed.

The original guidelines were first developed just for MEAP. The new guidelines have been expanded to include other OEAA programs: MI-Access, Michigan's English language proficiency tests now under development, the accreditation activities for Education YES! and NCLB Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) accountability. A subcommittee of the OEAA Advisory Committee worked with staff over the past six months to prepare this document.

It is the goal of the OEAA staff to use this document during the 2004-2005 school year; any questions or concerns about them will be brought back to the OEAA Advisory Committee for their input. The document is posted to the OEAA web page at [www.michigan.gov/oeaa](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa).

## **Assessment Development Update**

### Winter 2005 Field Test Activities

If you are the coordinator for a district where schools have been selected to participate in the field testing in grades 3, 5, 6 and 7 for mathematics and 3, 5, 6 and 8 for English Language Arts, you will be receiving a mailing soon that includes forms that require your immediate attention. Not only will this mailing serve as confirmation of the inclusion of schools in the field test sample, but you will be asked to confirm the enrollments and to request any accommodated versions needed for students with disabilities. The deadline for faxing these forms to the MEAP contractor is November 30, 2004.

If for any reason a grade or school cannot participate in the field-testing, you should contact the MEAP office by calling us at (877) 560-8378 or via email at [MEAP@Michigan.gov](mailto:MEAP@Michigan.gov).

### State-assessed Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs) Review

As of this date, several teachers have participated in the review of the plan for the state-assessed GLCEs, which you can access by checking on the MEAP web page under “What’s New?” (or by going to [http://www.mi.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-22709\\_31168-101707--,00.html](http://www.mi.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-22709_31168-101707--,00.html)).

The review will continue through the end of this month. We encourage you to take the time to assist us in this process by becoming involved in this review. Once the assessment plans have been finalized, we anticipate that the test designs will not change for several years, so this is your chance to be a part of the decision-making process.

### Eighth Graders and the Winter 2005 English Language Arts (ELA) Stand-alone Field Tests

Several people have contacted the MEAP Office to comment on the amount of testing this year’s eighth graders will be doing in schools selected for the English Language Arts stand-alone field test. These students will be taking tests in all four content areas, which we expect will take up to eight hours to administer. If there were any other way to meet the need for future assessments, we would do our best to avoid this situation.

If your school falls into this category, please do your best to secure the cooperation of your eighth graders in completing this task to the best of their ability. Since the State Board of Education has approved moving the social studies assessment to grades 6 and 9, this is the last year that the eighth grades will be assessed in four content areas. Any assistance you can give in making this a positive experience will be greatly appreciated.

## **Winter 2005 Enrollment Forms due November 15, 2004**

Just a reminder that the MEAP Address Verification Form (yellow), the Enrollment Form (blue) and the Supplemental Materials Order Form (green), which were mailed to districts last week, are due back to the MEAP Scoring Services (fax: 1-866-688-0419) by Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. These forms are critical to the delivery of testing materials.

## Reminder about the MDE-MEAP Announcement and Information LISTSERV

A new MDE-MEAP Announcement and Information LISTSERV is now available to distribute our bi-weekly publication, the MEAP Coordinator Update, as well as other general MEAP announcements.

MEAP staff will use the MDE-MEAP LISTSERV to greatly expand communication to administrators, teachers, parents, and community members – virtually any interested party who would like to receive current MEAP information. The MEAP coordinator database, which includes ONLY district superintendents and MEAP coordinators, will continue to be maintained by MEAP staff.

To join the LISTSERV, all that one must do is:

- Send an email message to [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.MICHIGAN.GOV](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.MICHIGAN.GOV)
- In the subject field, type SUB MDE-MEAP
- In the message body, type SUBSCRIBE MDE-MEAP <Your Name>

Be sure to replace <Your Name> in the above line with your name.

For example, SUBSCRIBE MDE-MEAP John Doe.

Please pass along this information to colleagues that may be interested in joining the list.

## Reminder – Winter 2005 MEAP Videoconference

The Winter 2005 MEAP Videoconference will originate from Wayne County RESA on Thursday, January 6, 2005, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The videoconference will be broadcast live to participating ISDs, RESAs and other locations across the state. Provisions will be available for viewers to email or phone in questions to the studio during the broadcast.

There will be a simultaneous live web cast as well as opportunities for interested parties to view the web case for several days following the videoconference. Wayne County RESA will make VHS and DVD copies available for purchase following the broadcast. Watch the MEAP Coordinator Update for more information.

## MEAP Contact Information

OEAA web site: [www.michigan.gov/oeaa](http://www.michigan.gov/oeaa)

MEAP email address: [meap@michigan.gov](mailto:meap@michigan.gov)

MEAP web site: [www.michigan.gov/meap](http://www.michigan.gov/meap)

MEAP secure database: [www.michigan.gov/meap-secure](http://www.michigan.gov/meap-secure)

MEAP Office local phone number: 517-373-8393

MEAP Office toll-free phone number: 877-560-8378

MEAP Office fax number: 517-335-1186